

The EDA Materials & Structures (MaS) Week – Workshop on Materials and Structures (MaS) Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) Update and 38th CapTech MaS Meeting in Gijón (Spain).

On 13 September 2017, a Workshop on the Materials and Structures SRA CapTech Materials & Structures meeting took place at the Fundación Prodirtec Headquarters in Gijón (Spain). The workshop gathered 30 experts from various European Ministries of Defence, industry, SMEs and academia. The event was organised within the OB study for the SRA Update, coordinated by the FFI Institution (Norway).

The event was followed on 14 September 2017 by the 38th MaS CapTech, where the CapTech members reviewed the ongoing projects and proposed new ideas for future projects. In addition, a decision has been taken for the appointment of the Industry Rapporteur within the CapTech.

The Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) is a key document in the EDA Capability Technology Areas (CapTechs), which are networking fora for experts from Government, Industry, Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Academia. The SRA is a shared vision among the governmental and non-governmental members of the CapTech on the most urgent materials and structures related technology gaps and technical challenges emerging for the European Armed Forces.

Each CapTech provides its own SRA with the objective to have technologies ready when demanded by the military side or by the Agency's Capability Development Plan (CDP). In order to formalise the linkage between technology push and the capability pull, the EDA's Overarching Strategic Research Agenda (OSRA) approach introduced the Technology Building Blocks (TBBs) across all operational environments (Air, Naval, Land) and additional cross-cutting needs. They are correlated to:

- EDA technology taxonomy (a list of underpinning technologies on structures and materials)
- Generic Military Task List (e.g. capabilities as Engage, Protect, Sustain) across all operational environments (Air, Naval, Land).

Therefore, it is very important to keep the SRA updated, taking into account the latest R&T landscape. In fact, the SRA is supposed to be updated every 3 years.

On 13 September 2017 the SRA Update Workshop gathered 27 experts from 9 countries, including representatives from MoDs, Industry, SMEs, RTOs and Academia, at the Fundación Prodirtec Headquarters in Gijón (Spain). They have been split in 4 groups/discussion tables, related to the four dimensions *land*, *air*, *naval* and *cross-cutting*. Each group was moderated and each moderator was helped by a table host (e.g. for taking the minutes).

The groups reviewed the present SRA, paying attention to various factors, such as the EDA taxonomy, the Generic Military Task List and the TBBs, relevant to the CapTech Materials and Structures.

Through a specific methodology linking TBBs to the technology gap areas presently recorded by the CapTech, it was possible to identify the TBB prioritisation, taking into account parameters, as the urgency and the importance of the TBBs (Eisenhower matrix).

The outcome from all four discussion tables are going to be integrated in order to produce a unified TBB prioritisation within the CapTech, which will be used as reference for the OSRA in collaboration with the other EDA's CapTech.

The SRA Update 2017 Workshop was followed by the 38th Materials and Structures CapTech meeting on 14 September 2017 in Gijón. Thirty experts from nine countries gathered in order to discuss the

status of the projects funded within the CapTech umbrella and to visualise new research directions according to the relevance in the Strategic Research Agenda.

In addition, the CapTech members decided on the *modus operandi* concerning the Industry Rapporteur, who is a representative of the Industry linked also to RTO/Academia networks. The Industry Rapporteur will consolidate the Industry view for the future CapTech meetings and will favour continued and active engagement of industrial/RTO/Academia stakeholders in the CapTech.

The Workshop was organised within a specific EDA-funded study (17.ESI.NP3.058), coordinated by the FFI Institution (Norway). The Workshop and the Materials CapTech meeting were co-organized by EDA's CapTechs Materials & Structures and the non-profit Fundación Prodintec, based in Gijón.